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CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGIES, IN PARTICULAR AS RELATED TO CRIMES IN URBAN AREAS AND JUVENILE AND VIOLENT CRIMINALITY, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF VICTIMS: ASSESSMENT AND NEW PERSPECTIVES

Background paper for the workshop on the prevention of violent crime**

Summary

In its resolution 1993/32, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the proposal by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to hold a one-day workshop on the prevention of violent crime during the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

The extent of violent crime in the world, its diversity and its disastrous consequences for individuals, communities and societies have been the motivation for this workshop. The pooling and comparison of ideas, knowledge and experience should help to develop effective and flexible models for preventing violent crime and promote in that area the implementation of cooperation and technical assistance programmes between States.

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**The Secretary-General wishes to acknowledge the contribution made by the Mediterranean Group of States, composed of Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey, to the preparations for the workshop. He also wishes to thank the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime for its contribution to the present report.

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INTRODUCTION

A. Legislative context

1. As part of the follow-up to the Ministerial Meeting on the creation of an Effective United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, held in Paris from 21 to 23 November 1991, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/152 on the creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme. Wishing to intensify international cooperation in these areas, the Assembly approved the decision in the programme of action adopted by the Meeting (see Assembly resolution 46/152, annex, para. 29 (d)) that the holding of workshops should be encouraged during coming congresses.

2. In its resolution 1992/22, section VI, the Economic and Social Council identified crime prevention in urban areas, juvenile delinquency and violent criminality as one of three themes that should guide the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during the period 1992-1996. A number of areas were mentioned where support needed to be given to developing countries, in the form, *inter alia*, of technical cooperation and advisory services.

3. At its second session, in 1993, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommended that research and demonstration workshops should be an integral part of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.[1] In its resolution 1993/32 of 27 July 1993, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the proposal by the Commission that six research and demonstration workshops should be held during the Congress, one of which should deal with the prevention of violent crime.

B. Establishment of a working group of Mediterranean countries

4. Building on the good will that had prevailed at the setting up of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and anxious to draw attention to the results of government policies for preventing violent crime, a number of countries with a Mediterranean seaboard met together informally on the occasion of the Commission's second session in April 1993, in order to make a joint contribution to the preparation for the workshop on the prevention of violent crime. United by a common history and challenged by similar problems, associated, *inter alia*, with the break-up of traditional social structures, these countries expressed a desire to develop their exchanges and to highlight the specific nature of their activities and working methods. The establishment of the group was formalized by the signature of a joint declaration in Paris on 30 March 1994. Meetings were held in Paris on 29 and 30 March, in Malta on 27 and 28 June and in Tunis on 15-17 September, at which the working group's priorities were identified and the modalities for the workshop determined, with the ultimate adoption of a joint declaration and recommendations.

5. The working group, composed of participants from Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey, is helping in the preparations for the workshop and for the presentation of the subtopics selected.

C. Objectives of the workshop on the prevention of violent crime

6. In the discussion guide on demonstration and research workshops to be held at the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/CONF.169/PM.1/Add.1), in accordance with the wish expressed by the Commission, emphasis is placed on the need for more extensive collaboration between States and the exchange of knowledge and experience, as well as the development of bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation programmes. More specifically, the workshop should provide a forum for discussing various manifestations of violence, should identify their common sources and their

consequences, should interest the key actors in prevention and should propose specific solutions that would be adaptable to a variety of States.

7. The Economic and Social Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, defined the practical modalities for organizing the workshops. In section I, paragraph 10, of its resolution 1994/19, organizers of the workshops are requested to "seek to ensure that there is sufficient time for thorough and fruitful discussion, by fostering the exchange of information and experiences on closely specified issues of direct concern to policy makers and practitioners, for example in the form of panel discussions of case-studies, in order to identify the priorities for action, to examine possible model projects, to assess the factors behind the success or failure of such projects, to examine ways in which successful projects could be replicated and modified for implementation within the framework of other criminal justice systems, and to examine methods of ensuring proper follow-up to the workshops, including the organization of regional and interregional training courses on the workshop topics".

8. In section V, paragraph 1, of the same resolution the Ninth Congress is invited "to examine ways of promoting cooperation in crime prevention between criminal justice agencies, on the one hand, and, *inter alia*, other agencies, businesses, associations and the public, on the other hand, in order to develop successful crime prevention activities at the local, national and international levels, for example through the work of crime prevention councils". In paragraph 2, the Council requests the Ninth Congress "to consider violence against women and violence against children as separate questions under topic IV and in the context of the workshop on the prevention of violent crime, and to propose recommendations on those questions to the Commission in respect of legislation, procedures, policies, practices, and technical cooperation and assistance, as well as social services, education and the dissemination of information."

9. In section V, paragraph 7, the Council recommends "that the workshop on the prevention of violent crime identify and assess factors that are conducive to violent crime, including the ready availability of firearms; consider xenophobic violence and violence against vulnerable groups and violence in connection with armed conflicts; and identify methods of developing appropriate measures, including mediation and conflict resolution".

10. To sum up, the discussions on the various subjects examined in the workshop on the prevention of violent crime should:

(a) Make it possible to identify preventive solutions based on the latest knowledge of the sources of violence, its manifestations and consequences;

(b) Draw attention to the results that have been obtained where programmes have been put into effect;

(c) Define the conditions for success and the procedures for carrying out the programmes to be set up;

(d) Throw light on ways of helping to implement these activities in other countries, if necessary by adapting them to the circumstances in those countries.

11. The workshop will be of interest to those in charge of a wide range of ministerial departments, such as justice, police, social affairs, status of women, health, urban affairs, education, youth and so on, and also to non-governmental representatives, locally elected officials, scientific circles and professionals involved in such matters. Finally, the workshop should permit the identification of technical cooperation requirements in this area and lead to offers that would be likely to meet such requirements.

I. UNDERSTANDING VIOLENT CRIME IN ORDER TO PREVENT IT MORE EFFECTIVELY

12. It will be necessary to provide a description of what violent crime consists of before proposing any noteworthy measures for its prevention or seeking models for collaboration between States on this matter. Indeed, the search for, and the implementation of, preventive solutions should be based on a definition of the concept of violent crime, on a correct understanding of the scope of the problem and on as precise a knowledge as possible of the factors underlying its development.

A. An attempt to define violent crime

13. The forms taken by violent crime may vary form one country to another, depending on the cultural development and politico-social organization of the country concerned. They may also vary in intensity depending on the country or region; it would therefore be advisable to look for a definition that could be applied satisfactorily to all situations. In paragraph 73 of the discussion guide drawn up to assist in the preparation of the workshops for the Ninth Congress (A/CONF.169/PM.1/Add.1), the following definition of violent crime is proposed: "any act that results in physical or psychological injury or harm", with the added comment that "the definition of what constitutes violent conduct is subject to different legal as well as sociocultural norms and practices".

14. Homicide, infanticide, assault, rape, sexual abuse, violence by intimidation and terror, terrorism, trafficking in women and children, serious cases of desertion and neglect, armed robbery, threats and criminally dangerous driving are undoubtedly the most familiar forms of violence, which match the proposed definition.

15. They are practised between individuals, in public or in private, in the family, in the household, in public buildings and in the street. Collective violence is also practised against individuals or groups, often minorities, on account of their race, ethnic adherence, sex, religion, social class or other group characteristics.

16. Fairly well-structured groups engage in planned or spontaneous confrontations with other groups in the course of territorial wars or on occasions such as political rallies and sporting events. Finally, whole populations are sometimes taken hostage through acts of terrorism.

17. These, then, are the different forms of violent crime that will be considered in the workshop.

18. Violence is a violation of internationally recognized human rights, more especially the right to life, the right to equality, the right to freedom and safety, the right to be protected against discrimination, the right to physical and mental health, and the right not to be subjected to torture or any form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. These principles are enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex), and the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 2263 (XXII), annex).

19. It should also be noted that in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (General Assembly resolution 48/104), States are called on to condemn violence against women and not to invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with regard to eliminating this form of violence.

B. The chief victims of violent crime

20. The victims of violent crime fall into three basic categories:

(a) Women and children;

(b) Minority groups;

(c) Vulnerable individuals.

1. Violence against women and children

21. Violence against women and children can no longer be ignored. Although it may still be difficult to evaluate precisely the size of the problem and the trends it may follow, it is being ever more widely recognized and denounced. Its importance must not be underestimated either, since it is now known that official figures frequently play down the true situation.

22. For example, at least 90 per cent of domestic violence is targeted at women and children. In Canada, an inquiry conducted among more than 12,000 women demonstrated that 51 per cent of the women over 16 years of age had undergone in the course of their lives at least one experience of physical or sexual violence.[2]

23. According to some women's organizations, more than 9,000 wives are murdered each year in India because their dowry is insufficient.[3] In Asia, it is reckoned that 100 million women can be considered to have "disappeared".[4] According to the experts, this figure may be partly attributable to the selective destruction of foetuses, infanticide and the abandonment of female children.

24. In the United States of America, homicide is one of the five major causes of death in young children.[3] The same study quotes some alarming figures: In Brazil, four children are murdered each day, representing an increase of 40 per cent over the year 1993; in the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand, there are estimated to be more than 500,000 cases of child prostitution; in the United States in 1992, 7,000 children were killed using firearms.

2. Violence against minority groups

25. Attention the world over is being drawn to manifestations of violence associated with intolerance, racism or abuse of power. Membership in an ethnic, political or religious minority is generally associated with high rates of victimization. The scope and nature of the violence varies greatly from one country to another but it is occurring on a global scale. For example, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) *Human Development Report, 1994*[3] mentions that approximately half the countries of the world have experienced inter-ethnic violence in recent times.

26. Although Canada has been placed first in the classification of countries of the world according to the UNDP Human Development Index (HDI), the risk for an Amerindian of becoming a victim of homicide is six times greater there than it is for other Canadians. Indeed, particularly high rates of violence and victimization are to be seen among indigenous populations throughout the world. For example, in Australia the homicide rate for Aboriginals is eight times higher than it is for the population as a whole.

3. Violence against other vulnerable groups

27. Other highly vulnerable groups of people, such as the elderly and the physically or mentally handicapped, also run a greater risk of victimization. For several decades there have been disturbing reports by bodies concerned with protecting the rights of such people on the existence of hidden violence, both institutional and domestic, against them.

28. Furthermore, victimization surveys show that urban residents are more often victims of violent crime, especially those living in the larger towns and underprivileged districts.

C. The factors behind violent crime

29. Before violence can be properly understood and the means found of preventing it, a knowledge is required of the multiple and complex factors involved, which, when combined and mutually reinforced, provoke violent acts. Our understanding of these interactions is still imperfect, but it is sufficiently advanced for us to devise rational programmes that are capable of preventing violent crime. Furthermore, certain initiatives have already produced positive results and deserve to be better known and further developed.

30. In order that the multiplicity of the factors associated with violent crime may be taken into account, they can be classified under three common denominators: the economic and social context, sociocultural values and associated or aggravating factors.

1. Economic and social factors

31. Economic and social factors include mechanisms for the sharing of wealth (employment, health, education, housing etc.) as instruments for social and economic policies.

32. Indeed, it has been noted that there is usually more violence in societies that do not properly share their wealth. For example, the highest rates of homicide are to be found in countries where differences in income are considerable and where there is a lot of unemployment. Throughout the world, much more than the level of poverty it is the inequality of opportunity and the socio-economic differences that are powerful precursors of the level of violence.

33. Numerous studies find a correlation between high levels of violent crime and figures directly related to poverty, such as, for example, density in the housing occupancy, movement of the population, a low rate of school attendance, a high number of single-parent or reconstructed families and anonymity and disorganization within the community.

34. The family is severely tested by the tensions that poverty creates, which may have an effect on the children: physical and psychological violence, multiple neglect, health problems, lack of preparation for schooling, academic failure, dropping out, association with street gangs and so on are links in a long chain, and, though not in themselves decisive, they may increase the risks of both violent behaviour and victimization.

35. Childhood and family play a decisive role in the development of violent conduct: violent adults have very often been aggressive children; moreover, their own parents have themselves often been violent, thus suggesting the persistence of these attitudes within the family across the generations. It has been shown that aggression during childhood constitutes one of the most important factors of violence in adolescence and adulthood, and that a lack of interest by the parents in the upbringing of their children may be a forerunner

of violence.* Other correlations have been established between the aggressiveness of children and certain parental attitudes, such as rejection by the mother and the threat or use of corporal punishment, especially when administered in an unpredictable and inconsistent way.

36. The maltreatment of children accounts for a considerable share of the violence in the world. This is further aggravated by the fact that maltreated children do not normally have an opportunity to express the distress and anger they feel. Unless the family can offer the children the conditions needed for integration into the school system, employment and society, the factors that lead to violence all come together at once.

2. Factors associated with sociocultural values

37. Sociocultural values depend largely on education, culture and the media, but also on the cohesion and solidarity of families and communities.

38. If a social group accords a certain form of legitimacy, that is to say, prestige, to violent behaviour, the values respected by the individuals making it up may well move in the same direction.

39. This is where the handling of information on violent crime by the media and the violent content of television programmes come into play and these questions will certainly be a subject for broader treatment within the workshop devoted to the mass media and crime prevention. The question whether continual exposure to violence in television programmes leads to a certain loss of sensitivity *vis-à-vis* violent action has been the subject of numerous studies, some of which conclude that young televiewers tend to perceive violence as an acceptable and effective response in conflict management.

40. Numerous studies confirm the idea that male violence is partly to be explained by the ways in which men have been socialized, which are, for example, responsible for the reluctance of certain men to express their emotions and may be influential in causing them to resort to violence against women.

41. Educational methods based on corporal punishment may also provoke pent-up violence.

42. The poverty and instability of part of the population influences the values of the community. Communication between individuals breaks down in the same way as the means of developing, actualizing and strengthening the values of community well-being are lost.[5] A sense of responsibility to the community, good-neighbourly relations and codes of conduct sanctioned by the community itself disappear in favour of anonymity, individualism and opportunism.

43. Finally, among the social values whose protection is essential for the prevention of violent crime, emphasis should be given to the pre-eminence of public-spiritedness, tolerance and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. These values are today still strongly challenged by the forms of violent crime based on intimidation and terror, of which democracy is obviously the first victim. According to the *Human Development Report, 1994*,[3] the focal point of terrorist activity has moved since the beginning of the 1970s. After being concentrated in Latin America, Europe and the Near East, it now seriously affects the countries of North Africa.

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*See D. Magnusson, *Individual Development from an Interactional Perspective* (Hillsdale, New Jersey, Lawrence Erlbaum, 1988), in Sweden; J. McCord, "A longitudinal study of aggression and antisocial behavior", in *Prospective Studies in Crime and Delinquency*, K. T. Van Dusen and S. A. Mednick, eds. (Boston, Kluwer-Nijhoff, 1983) in the United States; and L. Pulkkinen, "Finland: the search for alternatives to aggression", in *Aggression in Global Perspective*, A. P. Goldstein and M. H. Segall, eds. (New York, New York, Pergamon, 1983) in Finland.

3. Associated and aggravating factors

44. There are other factors correlated with violence that do not belong directly either to a system of social values or to mechanisms for the distribution of wealth. A few of the most important of them are listed below.

(a) Availability of firearms

45. Certain factors associated with the immediate environment may have an effect on the probability of a crime being committed and on its gravity. For example, the availability of firearms in the lead-up to a violent event modifies the spectrum of possible consequences. It has been found that the probability that an act of aggression may be fatal is five times greater if the weapon used is a gun rather than a knife.[6] The availability of firearms further compels us to consider the increased probability of injury during criminal acts involving assault or robbery, as well as a possible increase in the frequency of such acts. In this respect, strict control of firearms is closely associated with a fall in the number of homicides and accidental deaths.

46. Furthermore, weapons imported during an armed conflict or a civil war pass, at the end of the strife, into the possession of individuals who may make use of them in committing a crime under ordinary law. This concern, expressed during the regional preparatory meetings for the Ninth Congress by several States that had been shaken by political strife (see, *inter alia*, A/CONF.169/RPM.2, para. 87), brings out the implications of the process of political violence for the level of violent crime. The United Nations is faced with this problem in the countries where it conducts peace-keeping operations.

(b) Urban planning

47. Urban planning may help to prevent violent crime and may be a factor in enhancing a sense of security among the citizens. Indeed, it is recognized that public places that are not well-frequented encourage certain types of violent crime, such as assault and robbery. But the reason these places are so poorly frequented often has a great deal to do with their physical layout and the feeling that there is a danger of being attacked there. Conversely, in public places that are better planned and more heavily frequented, the number and seriousness of attacks may well be reduced; better protection for business premises helps to reduce the frequency of armed robbery and to lower the risk of violence following such hold-ups; the use of containers made of plastic in sports stadiums reduces the risk of serious injury in the event of riots etc.

(c) Alcohol and illicit drugs

48. The effect of a drug on behaviour is the result of the pharmacological properties and molecular components of the substance used, the neurological components of the user, his personality and temperament, his expectations regarding the effects of the product and the social background prevailing at the time of consumption. Furthermore, with regard to the link between alcohol and violence, although it has frequently been observed that the behaviour of a drunken person may vary enormously and that drunkenness does not automatically lead to violence, it is still true that some individuals, under the influence of alcohol, repeatedly tend to behave aggressively.

(d) Individual characteristics

49. The two personality traits most closely associated with the development of violent conduct are the absence of empathy for the feelings of other people and an impulsive nature (which implies an inability to postpone pleasure). Violent criminals also tend to exhibit psychopathic or sociopathic conduct and to lack internalized control mechanisms.

50. It is difficult to evaluate the ties between mental illness and violence. Research tends to show, nevertheless, that there is a probable relationship between violence and certain serious mental disorders, such as certain forms of schizophrenia, and disorders associated with alcoholism or of organic origin. Although the correlations between violence and mental illness are often statistically significant, they do not represent an explanatory factor that can be considered definitive. It is important, furthermore, to note that mental illness does not seem to lead to a greater incidence of violent acts.

D. Some consequences of violent crime

51. Whether violent crime is growing rapidly, is stable or is in decline is a question that lies at the heart of a difficult debate, both at the national and international levels. While it cannot be denied that there is a vital need to evaluate these trends correctly, the present levels of violent crime and their consequences by themselves justify the priority accorded to the preventive activities put into effect in this area.

52. Violent crime affects individuals, families, communities and society at large. It entails a change in lifestyle and makes for deterioration of the social fabric. When the violence occurs within the family, it breeds hatred between members of the family and contributes to children's failure to adjust to school and society. It is a serious handicap for the future of young people and therefore - inevitably - for future societies. The risk of violent behaviour being learnt and perpetuated from one generation to the other is also another consequence of family violence. The Canadian study referred to in paragraph 25 above[2] demonstrates that women whose fathers-in-law beat their wives run a five times greater risk of being themselves beaten by their husbands.

53. Violent crime erodes economic development and limits resources that should be earmarked for health, education and other essential areas of social development; a vicious circle comes about, with backwardness in such areas in its turn paving the way for violence. Generally speaking, violent crime runs counter to satisfaction of the need for security, which is one of the essential conditions for sustainable development.

54. As is recognized in the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex), violence experienced at the individual level causes major physical and psychological trauma in the victims, which often persist long after the event itself. Furthermore, it encourages withdrawal from social life and distrust; it nurtures prejudice and the desire for revenge.

55. Violence is a powerful vehicle for the decline of social communities; public places become less frequented, businesses collapse, real estate depreciates, the standard of services declines, the mobility of the residents increases and tourism falls off. In turn, these factors help to destroy the cohesion of the communities and gravely affect the informal mechanisms for social control.

56. The costs then become exorbitant, the share of expenditure benefiting private security systems increases and there is a greater risk that the police will indulge in practices that run counter to human rights. Because of this violence, 10 to 15 per cent of the national budgets of the developing countries have to be apportioned to the police and the criminal justice system.

II. PREVENTION OF VIOLENT CRIME

57. There is no one single reason for violent crime. There are interacting factors, which contribute in different ways to its growth. Preventing violence means influencing this process.

58. First of all a methodology has to be proposed that will make it possible to integrate existing strategies and measures, which are based on what is still a very imperfect knowledge of the causes of violent crime.

59. Examples should then be given of initiatives that seem to be effective in helping to prevent outbreaks of violent crime.

A. Methodology

60. The methodology proposed here is based on the following findings:

(a) Prevention of violent crime means adopting a set of measures that will influence the associated factors likely to show a causal relationship with such crime;

(b) The strategies chosen should reflect the multiplicity and interaction of these factors;

(c) The hope that satisfactory results will be obtained by selective or isolated measures is a vain one. Complementary and coordinated strategies, applied in a concentrated fashion in different contexts of action, are essential for success.

61. First and foremost, therefore, the following points need to be made quite clear:

(a) Preventive activities should be undertaken within all contexts of social life and should cover different populations;

(b) In each of these contexts, and taking into account what is known of the factors related to violence, socio-economic policies, situational approaches and initiatives aimed at changing negative social values and reinforcing the values that will ensure a cohesive society are both desirable and possible;

(c) All these activities have desirable qualities and limitations, but the multiple and complex relationships of the causes of violence suggest that they are basic and complementary.

62. A table is annexed illustrating possible strategies for the prevention of violence.

B. Examples of achievements

63. Programmes for the prevention of violent crime have been carried out in numerous countries. Some of them have achieved positive results and deserve to be mentioned. The workshop on the prevention of violent crime is expected, among other things, to illustrate some of these achievements.

64. Pursuant to recommendations of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its first session regarding the organization of the workshops,[7] the choice of programmes was based on the following criteria:

(a) They have been shown to be effective in reducing certain forms of violent crime;

(b) The conditions in which they were implemented are well documented and there is a real possibility of reproducing them in other contexts;

(c) They could give lead to various forms of technical cooperation between States.

65. Seven priority topics have been identified and selected for in-depth treatment during the day reserved for the workshop:

(a) Violence and the family;

(b) Violence and the school;

(c) Violence and sporting events;

(d) Racist and xenophobic violence;

(e) Violence related to terrorism;

(f) Violence and pathology;

(g) Firearm control.

1. Violence and the family

66. For several reasons, the family should be the focus of concern for those responsible for policies to prevent violent crime. First, the family remains the principal setting for violence against women and children; secondly, the quality of parental authority and care has a direct effect on the development of the children and their ability to settle down well in school and in society; thirdly, children who are maltreated or are witnesses to violent behaviour within the family may well copy this behaviour when they grow up; finally, since it is exceptionally difficult to change the attitudes and behaviour of individuals who are already violent, the most rational measures should be aimed at very young children and their families.

67. In the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (see General Assembly resolution 48/104), violence against women is understood to encompass, but not to be limited to, "physical, sexual and psychological violence within the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children, dowry-related violence, marital rape, genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation". Among the resolutions adopted by the United Nations on domestic violence, mention should be made of General Assembly resolution 45/114, in which the request was made for a manual for practitioners to be formulated on the subject of domestic violence. This manual, which was published in 1993 under the title *Strategies for Confronting Domestic Violence: A Resource Manual* (ST/CSDHA/20), puts forward a set of options and strategies for dealing with this problem.

68. It recommends a certain number of preventive measures that should be incorporated into a multidimensional approach. These can be summarized as follows:

(a) The elaboration and implementation of educational and training programmes, starting in childhood, which describe all the legal provisions aimed at punishing family violence;

(b) The establishment and development of methods enabling victims and the community in the broader sense to inform the competent authorities of acts of violence within a family.

69. With this in view, the following measures are proposed:

(a) To install telephone hot lines, with staff qualified to answer calls;

(b) To increase the number of emergency reception centres for victims;

(c) To provide victims with legal assistance;

(d) To train the police to accept this type of complaint;

(e) To permit the victim to reveal the facts in conditions of complete calm;

(f) To inform citizens of the existence of such provisions so as to facilitate access to them for all victims;

(g) To set up legal mechanisms for passing on information to the competent authorities;

(h) To enable women victims to obtain material aid so that they can maintain their independence;

(i) To simplify and improve the effectiveness of legal procedures;

(j) To encourage alternative police responses based on a clear distinction between victims and aggressors at the time of arrest and treatment;

(k) To train all professionals who are involved in violent crime in the family: police officers, judges, social workers etc.;

(l) To improve evidence-gathering techniques in hospitals and any other institutions involved, and to improve methods of questioning the persons who are being prosecuted and of listening to the victims;

(m) To promote legal mechanisms for submitting evidence before the courts without burdening the victims psychologically;

(n) To institute alternative treatment for aggressors, victims and their families;

(o) To supervise and evaluate the results of treatment;

(p) To prohibit the possession and use of firearms by violent offenders;

(q) To give the competent authorities effective instruments for collecting information on recidivists;

(r) To encourage coordination between the various institutions concerned with prevention and with improvement of the operation of criminal justice.

(a) Measures for intervention by the police

70. The State has invested the police with the authority to combat unacceptable social behaviour. That is why the police play a fundamental role in the protection of the victims of family violence. Furthermore, on a practical level, it is one of the only services available 24 hours a day. Nevertheless, the ways in which the police respond to requests for action differ considerably; often they do not respond at all because of the difficulties encountered in describing an act of violence as a criminal act, and of the obstacles with which they are faced when dealing with such matters.

71. In Egypt, women who have been assaulted by their husbands can appeal to a social worker at the police station. In Greece, Malaysia, Nigeria and Thailand, the police attempt to mediate between the parties to the conflict. Some jurisdictions appoint women police officers to deal exclusively with domestic violence. In Argentina, Brazil and Peru, there are women's police stations, the staff of which are exclusively women, whose mission is to inform, counsel and refer women who are victims of violence.[8]

(b) Support programmes for young mothers in need

72. Measures for preventing domestic violence must include the adoption of support policies, more especially for families in need, single-parent families and very young mothers. In the United States, particular attention is given to support programmes for young unmarried mothers, the results of which are encouraging in terms of reducing the level of ill-treatment of children and better preparation for school. The Yale Child Research Program, which has provided young mothers in need with social, paediatric, psychological and child-care services over a period of 30 months following the birth of their first child, has shown positive results. At the age of 12, compared with a control group, the children who had benefited from the programme manifested less delinquent or predelinquent behaviour.

(c) Inter-institutional cooperation

73. Policies for preventing violence should also be aimed at a clear-cut rejection of all forms of violence against women and children. In this respect, the adaptation and amendment of the laws, support for and the accompaniment of assaulted women, the sheltering of such women, the rehabilitation of violent men and the training of officials of the judiciary system, the police and social services are essential measures. Campaigns to make the public aware of this problem and to inculcate egalitarian values in them must also be conducted.

74. Quite a few countries have already adopted such policies. Australia has set up a national committee on violence against women and certain States are drawing up strategic programmes for preventing domestic violence. In the United States, the recent crime bill provides for a special budget in the next few years to be devoted to the prevention of domestic violence, and a number of States have set up working groups to study and to recommend changes in the machinery for helping victims, women and children. Canada has launched a National Initiative on Domestic Violence, which brings together 14 ministries and governmental agencies whose mandate is aimed explicitly at coordinating and effectively distributing resources.

75. The action of these Governments is also aimed at stimulating local initiative in this field. The province of Alberta has published a resource booklet entitled "Breaking the pattern: how Alberta communities can help". In Costa Rica, the feminist organization CEFEMINA, in collaboration with the Government, has set up a programme entitled "Woman, you are not alone", which offers legal, medical and psychological assistance to battered women, operates a telephone hot line, publishes a newspaper with information, provides shelter and facilitates self-help groups.

76. Recognition of the need for a coordinated approach by the different competent authorities, other than the police, is illustrated by a model programme set up at Beersheba in Israel. This programme makes use of the judiciary system in order to increase the incidence of police intervention and of cooperation between the police and neighbourhood assistance services, namely women's associations, judicial supervisory services and social services. Since the programme was put into effect, complaints leading to prosecution have risen by 43 per cent. Decisions to prosecute the offender have risen by 31 per cent, while the rate of relapse has fallen by 11 per cent.

77. At Canberra, in Australia, the police act in conjunction with the special domestic violence crisis service, a separate and autonomous service working 24 hours a day, which sends crisis workers, accompanied by the police, to answer calls for immediate help by the victim and to provide information services and long-term follow-up. At Duluth in Minnesota, United States, an independent coordination body, which groups together the representatives of several voluntary and neighbourhood services, is implementing the Domestic Abuse Intervention Programme. In Mexico City an inter-agency coordination committee - the Plural Committee for Victims - which includes female senators, journalists and academics, has drafted legislation for the protection of women and encouraged the creation of crisis centres for victims of domestic violence.

78. Available evaluations show that an effective policy for reducing violence in the family involves cooperation between different institutions and the population. Numerous countries have arrived at the conclusion that judicial intervention can help to reduce the level of domestic violence on condition that it is combined with other strategies developed in the areas of health, education and social services (both community and voluntary) and as long as these strategies benefit from the broad support of the population. It has been found that efficient strategies in a given country are not automatically the same in another, and that they all have to be in harmony with the national or cultural context.

79. Within the working group of Mediterranean countries, Greece and Israel are responsible for coordinating ideas on this topic and for determining the ways in which the workshop on the prevention of violent crime should proceed, together with the support of all those who wish to associate themselves with it. Greece will be more particularly interested in child victims and Israel will, for its part, submit a multidimensional model for the treatment of couples involved in acts of violent crime.

2. Violence and the school

80. Schools are places where socialization takes place and is fostered and where knowledge and values are transmitted; occasionally, in some countries, they are also in danger of becoming scenes of violence, a development that calls into question their objectives and their methods of work.

(a) The contemporary social, demographic and cultural context

81. The demographic expansion of the school population partly explains the existence of huge schools (which have difficulty in adapting the equipment to its users) and overpopulated, particularly in urban areas.

82. There is a tendency among some parents to unload their responsibilities onto the schools, which only makes things more difficult for those schools.

(b) Violence associated with schools

83. Violence associated with schools covers a wide variety of phenomena, which should be itemized as clearly as possible:

(a) The place where acts of violent criminality take place may be inside the school (in classrooms, common facilities etc.), or nearby (at bus stops, in parking areas etc.);

(b) The perpetrators of the acts may be from the school milieu or from outside;

(c) The victims may be pupils, teachers or members of the supervisory or support personnel;

(d) All kinds of acts may be involved: physical, sexual or moral violence, violent behaviour (vandalism) and the forming of gangs;

(e) The factors identified in the countries concerned are many and varied: some are rooted in family life (in particular, the failure of parents to assume their responsibilities), while others relate more generally to some of the sociocultural origins of delinquency (economic crisis, alcohol and drug abuse, the tendency of the media to make violence seem commonplace, the influence of urban life etc.).

(c) Possible solutions

84. In order to identify acts of criminal violence associated with schools both speedily and efficiently, the various institutions concerned should learn to work together; thus, those concerned with the national education system, with policing, with the system of administration of justice and with social affairs should ensure that information circulates properly and that concerted solutions can be found promptly.

85. In the field of prevention, the school must have an educational role: civics courses should develop the concept of citizenship and a sense of responsibility. It is essential that parents should be associated with this task.

86. Consequently, mechanisms for consultation between the school and families would seem to be a priority means of action; they should be given assistance by the local authorities and associations, in ways appropriate to each country and each social milieu.

87. At the same time, it might be a good idea to start thinking about the construction of the school, so that, while its gates are open to the outside world and it is ready to work with all parties interested in preventing criminal violence, it can nevertheless remain a place that is physically protected.

88. Finally, the institutions whose task it is to reduce the incidence of this kind of violent crime (the educational and social departments, police and the justice system) must work together to organize an adequate, rapid and fair response, taking into account all the necessary parameters: the special rights of minors, consideration of the interests of victims, and the need to stop disturbances and avoid their repetition and to enable the school to operate in the best interests of all, in a calm atmosphere.

89. By way of example, Norway has drawn up a national programme to prevent brawls among children in schools. In operation since 1983, the programme covers children from 8 to 16 years of age and stresses the involvement of parents, educators and the pupils themselves, an explicit definition of unacceptable conduct and the use of appropriate sanctions other than physical ones. The supervision of playgrounds has also been increased. An evaluation of the results of the programme among 2,500 pupils of different age groups has shown that brawls and aggression have decreased by 50 per cent in two years. The incidence of thefts and vandalism has also decreased over the same period.

90. In England and Wales, a particular effort has been made in the area of education and conflict resolution, notably as a result of the work of the Friends World Committee for Consultation and the Quaker Council for European Affairs. A guide for the organization of such programmes in schools was published by the Council of Europe in 1989, with the title "Violence and conflict resolution in schools". In the United States, the Center for Education Development is active in this field and has developed models for courses, including one entitled: "Violence prevention: curriculum for adolescents."[9] This course adopts a public health approach and is based on the idea that education can transform attitudes. It has been tried with success in many schools, particularly in Massachusetts.

91. Within the working group of Mediterranean countries, France is responsible for coordinating ideas on this topic and determining how the workshop in this area should proceed, with the support of all who would like to assist.

3. Violence and sporting events

92. In the context of preparations for this workshop, the Mediterranean working group has reached the following conclusions:

(a) Violent crime during sporting events is a problem in most countries. It is increasing, growing worse and spreading;

(b) The factors conducive to such violent crime are many; they relate to social and personal dysfunctions;

(c) The perpetrators of these violent acts are often young people incapable of controlling their emotions, who are encouraged by the anonymity ensured by the crowd, which fosters increased outbreaks of violence;

(d) The importance of the role played by sporting events in the development of cultural exchanges is a well-established fact;

(e) The authorities of the various countries therefore have a duty to ensure order and security during these events, guaranteeing the physical integrity of all.

93. There are a number of possible measures that can be taken to combat violent crime:

(a) The establishment, under the authority of legislative and governmental bodies, of a commission to combat violence at sporting events, the membership of which should represent all the institutions competent in the matter. The role of the commission would be to ensure that sporting events proceed peacefully, to draw up reports and conduct studies with the aim of eliminating all forms of violence in this context, and to propose disciplinary and preventive action;

(b) The promotion of educational campaigns on means of preventing violence in sport, in which cities would be invited to participate;

(c) The establishment of norms for ensuring coordination of work between sporting federations, other bodies concerned and the competent authorities;

(d) Restriction of the sale of alcoholic beverages outside sports grounds and prohibition inside the grounds of all containers that can cause serious injury;

(e) The preparation of plans for the evacuation of stadiums and the periodic review of these plans;

(f) A requirement that the structure of stadiums be in conformity with rules established by the competent authorities;

(g) Exchanges of information among the bodies concerned to enable them to discharge their responsibilities for preventing violence at sporting events.

94. Within the working group of the Mediterranean countries, Spain is responsible for coordinating ideas on this topic and determining how the workshop in this area should proceed, with the support of all who wish to assist.

4. Racist and xenophobic violence

95. There has been a marked expansion in racism and xenophobia in recent years, which may partly be explained by the deterioration of the economic situation, the absence of real communication between peoples and mutual ignorance of cultures and civilizations.

96. Immigration and the mingling of ethnic groups may provide a focal point for manifestations of racism and xenophobia and make it necessary to introduce effective measures to prevent and punish all racist, anti-Semitic and xenophobic acts.

97. Such measures are in conformity, first, with the proclamation by the General Assembly in its resolution 2142 (XXI) of the symbolic date of 21 March as an international day for the elimination of discrimination, secondly with the adoption in 1990 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (General Assembly resolution 45/158, annex), and lastly with the proposed international convention on the elimination of racism and xenophobia. For its part, the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna in 1992, recommended that equality, respect for dignity and tolerance should be basic objectives for all Member States.[10]

98. Racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism are, however, continuing to expand almost to the point of becoming commonplace, as is illustrated by the very existence of the expression "ordinary racism".

99. Since the beginning of the 1970s, these phenomena have been aggravated by the economic crisis, the major geopolitical changes that have occurred and the upsurge of extremism. Discussion in the media, instead of combating these phenomena, has often merely reflected their more negative aspects, when it has not actually fanned the flames.

100. Seriously affected by economic crisis, foreigners, even when legally resident, and other vulnerable groups sometimes become scapegoats for crises in society. In some cases, immigrant populations become the target of threats and acts of violence on the part of individuals or organized groups.

(a) Proposals

101. In the awareness of this danger, the States concerned have adopted a number of measures and activities to combat racism and xenophobia and mobilized administrations and public services, both to prevent and to prosecute crime. Trade unions and associations to combat racism have become important partners in the exchange of information and in supporting the work of the prosecution services in the area of investigations and prosecutions. In this context, the work of courts in combating racism must be highlighted.

102. Priority has also been given to educational action by the ministries of education and culture. Particular emphasis, for example, has been placed on the need to develop education in human rights, including legal knowledge adapted to the pupils' age. This activity constitutes an intellectual response to racist, xenophobic and intolerant speech and behaviour, incompatible with the values that it is the task and duty of the school to transmit. It helps to instil in the pupil a sense of the public interest and of respect for the law, and implies an understanding of the rules of democratic life, a knowledge of the institutions in place and consideration of the conditions needed to ensure respect for human beings and for their rights in the present-day world: in short, tolerance and solidarity, the rejection of racism and a readiness to live together in a democratic society.

103. Ministers of the interior, who also have a role to play in the anti-racist effort, can participate in prevention through police training, through measures for the surveillance of sensitive points and through protection for those threatened because of their nationality or religious persuasion.

104. For their part, ministries of social affairs contribute to the integration of foreigners and other vulnerable groups into society, guarding against the risks of exclusion and marginalization.

(b) Measures against racism in the context of the promotion of human rights and the combating of marginalization

105. Measures to combat racism and xenophobia can be effective and durable only if human rights are understood as an indivisible whole and are applied in all their aspects.

106. Moreover, "exclusion" is aggravated when these basic rights are not applied, or not properly applied, in fields as varied as employment, housing, justice, education etc.

107. Two fields of action are therefore proposed here: measures against economic and social exclusion, and action against cultural exclusion.

108. In this area, attention should be drawn to the important role of the jurisprudence of the European Commission and Court of Human Rights and the efforts made by the non-governmental organizations involved in the defence of human rights to prevent all manifestations of racism and xenophobia.

109. The action of the courts and the work of the voluntary networks could well be supplemented by a mobilization of the media in support of a culture of non-discrimination and tolerance.

110. Xenophobia, racism and exclusion being essentially a manifestation of social discontent, the task of prevention requires, first, the promotion of social development policies giving priority to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable categories of people and, secondly, the implementation of bilateral, regional and international cooperation programmes to support these policies.

111. Lastly, it might be useful to give joint consideration to the management of migratory flows between countries in a given region that are encountering these problems.

112. Within the working group of Mediterranean countries, Morocco is responsible for coordinating ideas on this topic and determining how the workshop in this area should proceed, with the support of all those wishing to assist.

5. Violent crime and terrorism

113. In the framework of the preparations for this workshop, the working group of Mediterranean countries has taken note with interest of Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/19 on preparations for the Ninth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which, in section III, concerning Congress topic II, invites the Congress to consider "crimes of terrorism, which constitute one of the most dangerous forms of crime, as well as their interrelationship with organized crime, and ways of enhancing regional and international cooperation in preventing and combating these crimes effectively".

114. The working group of Mediterranean countries would like to see a debate take place on this issue, and invites all States to submit their proposals for measures to prevent criminal activities of this nature and to promote rules and procedures for regional and international cooperation in the effective prevention of these forms of violent crime.

115. Within the working group of Mediterranean countries, Tunisia and Egypt are responsible for coordinating ideas on this topic and determining how the workshop in this area should proceed, with the support of all those wishing to assist.

6. Violence and pathology

116. Narcotics trafficking and narcotics abuse are today among the worldwide scourges causing most concern. In 1990, the General Assembly, in the Political Declaration on international cooperation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (see General Assembly resolution S-17/2, annex) proclaimed the period from 1991-2000 the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse.

117. The growth of the narcotics threat is accompanied by an increase in the incidence of violent crime, inasmuch as many acts of violence are associated either with the networks for the production and distribution of drugs or with the medical and psychological effects of their consumption.

118. Faced with this problem, the authorities first reacted in isolation: ministerial departments concerned with public health, the police and the justice system recognized the gravity of the situation and mobilized to cope with it. Gradually, there was a general realization of the need to draw up better coordinated strategies in this area.

119. The working group of Mediterranean countries will try to highlight multidisciplinary preventive activities that will make it possible to combat the growth in trafficking and the resulting drug dependence.

(a) Identification of the problem and its causes

120. Research work is essential: the statistical data available in the countries affected by this problem are still very often fragmentary.

121. In spite of the absence of precise indicators, it is clear today that the world market for the drug traffic is flourishing and that the violent crime associated with it is increasing sharply.

122. The causes of this phenomenon are of very varied origin: along with the factors contributing to violent crime already enumerated (economic crisis, breakdown of the family unit, urban development etc.), mention must be made of the availability of harmful drugs and the tendency for drug consumption to be regarded as normal.

123. Drug addiction is the result of an equation involving the product, the individual and his environment.

(b) Objectives to be achieved

124. The primary aim is to reduce the exposure of the vulnerable population to the risks of drug dependence by combating production and traffic, developing an awareness of the risks entailed and reducing all the factors identified.

125. The essential obstacles to the achievement of these objectives are the inadequacy of epidemiological data, the absence of well-adapted multidisciplinary structures, shortcomings in the training of practitioners in this field, deficiencies in the educational system and inadequate responses by the institutions concerned, whose action is still sometimes unsystematic.

(c) Agreed strategies

126. Action should be taken against drug production and trafficking: the establishment of national anti-drug programmes should be encouraged and international cooperation strengthened.

127. Advantage should be taken of domestic legislation and of international legal instruments both to combat the expansion of trafficking in itself and to stop the growth in profits from these crimes (measures against money laundering etc.).

128. Action should be taken against drug consumption: information campaigns and educational activities should be developed; intersectoral coordination should be strengthened and medical, psychological and social assistance for drug addicts should be appreciably improved.

129. On this last point, attention may be drawn to the need for greater coordination between the role of the judicial system and that of health services and agencies. All the measures adopted under the supervision of the courts for offering treatment to the person being prosecuted should be the subject of careful study during the workshop.

130. A contribution should be made during the Ninth Congress to the discussions on the relationships between the justice system - a constraining framework - and medicine - which implies a relationship based on trust.

131. Action should be taken to deal with the dangers of relapse (prevention of recidivism): programmes should be developed for assisting convicted drug addicts, in particular those about to leave prison.

132. In this sphere, action can be taken within correctional institutions (identification of priority needs, establishment of clinical teams, physical detoxification and psychotherapeutic follow-up etc.), and outside (residential therapeutic support).

133. Within the working group of Mediterranean countries, Portugal and Algeria are responsible for coordinating ideas on this topic and determining how the workshop in this area should proceed, with the support of all those wishing to assist.

7. Firearm control

134. The Australian National Committee on Violence, in its report,[11] put forward a series of recommendations on the control of firearms which have influenced the policies of Australia and its constituent states in this field, and which have contributed to the discussion of this question, notably in the United States and Canada. The Committee's recommendations were aimed mainly at enabling Governments to adopt measures that could reduce to a minimum the number of deaths and injuries caused by the accidental or intentional use of firearms. In particular, they concern:

(a) The adoption of uniform legislation throughout the country concerning the purchase and possession of firearms;

(b) The introduction of uniform policies regarding the implementation and observance of the law;

(c) The adoption of a strategy in favour of the general reduction in the number of firearms and a ban on the possession of such weapons by persons already found guilty of violent crimes or presenting risks of violence;

(d) The prohibition of the possession of military weapons by private persons;

(e) The control and mandatory registration of shooting associations;

(f) The control of sales of firearms to private persons, with the prohibition of automatic weapons and certain types of ammunition, limitation to particular circumstances of the sale of semi-automatic weapons, and the establishment of an obligation to present a firearm permit for the purchase of ammunition, limited to ammunition for the authorized weapon;

(g) Centralized and computerized registration of all firearms;

(h) A general obligation to obtain a permit for the possession of a firearm, the permit being restricted to persons of over 18 years of age, dependent on due reasons being given and subject to a waiting period of 28 days, and requiring demonstration of prior training in weapons safety and storage in accordance with precise standards;

(i) Restriction of the use of hand weapons to authorized security personnel and members of shooting associations, with the obligation to leave these weapons at the place of work or exercise;

(j) The automatic seizure of any weapon whose owner no longer satisfies the legal requirements or presents risks of violence (threats, commission of offences etc.);

(k) A permanent amnesty for the handing in of unauthorized weapons.

III. CHALLENGES

135. In spite of the work that is being done, as described in the previous section, the challenges in the field of prevention of violent crime continue to be enormous. The present levels of violence are unacceptable. The measures taken to prevent violence are still largely inadequate and the political decision makers themselves sometimes have doubts about the possibility, even, of preventing it. Confronted with budget deficits, forced to spend substantial resources in response to the present manifestations of violent crime, discouraged by poor evaluations of the programmes that had been tried and influenced by a public opinion that is often ill-informed and in a hurry to see results, Governments invest very little in the prevention of violent crime.

A. Necessity for a firm commitment on the part of States

136. The factors associated with violence and the mechanisms through which they act are so complicated that, without a firm commitment on the part of States, it will be impossible to reverse the upward trend in violent crime. Without the adoption of clear and courageous policies, without the involvement of the highest political authorities and without consistent financing, it will be difficult to stimulate community action and effectively attack the social, situational and ideological causes of violence. Local organizations need the support of Governments, which are in the best position to give effective support to research and evaluation, training and coordination and to meet the financial needs.

B. Securing the instruments and tools necessary for a scientific approach

137. It must be recognized that the prevention of violent crime is a young discipline, on which little research has been done. There is still a serious lack of research on the factors associated with violence and their interactions, of theoretical bases for the development of sound working hypotheses and of scientific testing. There is certainly a sufficient body of knowledge in existence today to allow progress to be made and rational and promising strategies to be initiated. But there is also an urgent need to extend and collate the knowledge acquired, to develop adequate evaluation procedures, to finance their application and to build bridges between theory and practice.

IV. FORMULAS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

138. It has been shown in the preceding section that the factors behind violent crime are many and interrelated, and that the mechanisms through which they act are extremely complex. Complementary measures have to be adopted to tackle simultaneously the economic and social context, sociocultural values and related, aggravating factors such as the availability of firearms, drug addiction and the present forms of urban design. Section II, subsection B, dealing with initiatives that should be encouraged, contains descriptions of experiments that have yielded positive results in the area of violence prevention or, on the basis of our present knowledge, seem promising, and therefore deserve to be continued and evaluated.

139. In the face of the national and transnational consequences of violence for individuals, families and communities, and taking into account the necessity for human security in any durable development, as emphasized in the *Human Development Report, 1994*,[3] there is an urgent need to pool experience and resources. The firm commitment of Governments, the vigorous action and wide variety of measures needed, and the medium- and long-term perspective required to sustain these determined efforts still need the support of international cooperation.

140. It will be necessary to determine what concrete measures can be taken to encourage more intensive support in national policies, throughout the world, for well-tested, promising approaches in the area of the prevention of violent crime, what steps will help to discover and use the best methods for tackling the problem and what support should be given to the development of increasingly effective strategies.

141. In section V of its resolution 1994/19, the Economic and Social Council calls for cooperation in crime prevention between criminal justice agencies and other agencies, businesses, associations and the public, in order to develop successful preventive activities at the local, national and international levels, for example through the work of national crime prevention councils.

142. While no limits should be placed on its scope, cooperation can and should, in the short term, focus on three fields of activity:

(a) An exchange of information on the most effective activities and on the most useful tools for effective prevention;

(b) The sensitization and training of persons who are in a position to influence policies or are responsible for implementing them;

(c) Direct assistance for preventive measures, in particular through the provision of technical and financial resources.

A. The mobilization of States and of the United Nations

143. At a meeting in Paris on 29 and 30 March 1994 held as part of the preparations for this workshop, the members of the working group of Mediterranean countries agreed, in the Paris Declaration of 30 March 1994, that they would seek to promote among themselves "the drawing up and implementation of technical cooperation programmes on themes of common interest in the field of the prevention of urban delinquency and violent crime".

144. Within this group, a discussion will begin, in connection with the Ninth Congress, on proposals for the establishment of permanent cooperation structures: a secretariat, a training and research centre etc. In addition, even in the absence of a specific structure, consideration may already be given to organizing meetings dealing with the exchange of experience and concrete projects between the countries participating

in the working group. The subjects taken up at these meetings would relate to fields that the working group has defined as priority fields at its various meetings in Paris, and at Valletta and Tunis.

145. Without referring in detail to action that may be proposed at the conclusion of the Ninth Congress, it may be pointed out that the activities should, above all, allow practitioners to meet and compare their professional experience: it will not, therefore, be a matter of organizing seminars reserved for research workers or political decision makers, but of encouraging exchanges of information on practice among those directly involved in the prevention of violent crime.

146. These activities could generally take the form of courses or training sessions. Activities for the training of trainers would also be extremely useful; the dissemination of knowledge and experience is more rapid and more lasting when it is oriented towards teaching rather than the content of the instruction itself.

147. In view of the close links between the reduction of crime in the different communities and durable human and economic development, it is more particularly the task of Governments to integrate the foregoing recommendations into their national priorities.

148. It is also important, in the context of the follow-up to the Ninth Congress, the preparations for the Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held at Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996, and the desire of the United Nations to ensure sustainable development and human security on a global basis, that the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the United Nations system should cooperate with the activities of Governments, local authorities and organizations working in the field of the prevention of violent crime.

B. Examples of cooperation

149. The following examples are only indicative and the list is not a definitive one.

150. First of all, mention may be made of the United Nations publication entitled *Strategies for Confronting Domestic Violence: A Resource Manual*, a United Nations publication that appeared in 1993 (ST/CSDHA/20), in which a range of approaches is presented from all over the world. A panoply of measures concerned with the justice system, public health, education, housing and social services, which can be used both by governmental and non-governmental bodies, is presented along with the problems related to requirements and the development of intersectoral cooperation. The main purpose of the *Manual* is to share information and experience acquired in several countries that could be useful elsewhere. It provides an excellent springboard for technical cooperation projects and it is important that it should be distributed as widely as possible.

151. In order to be more effective in its efforts to prevent violent crime, the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime, based at Montreal, is giving priority to and working actively on the establishment of an international clearing-house for information on the most successful activities, on those that are most promising, on lessons drawn from successes or failures and on the best qualified experts.

152. The European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Educational Development Center in the United States regularly produce studies evaluating programmes for the prevention of violence. UNICRI has made available two important bibliographies on measures to prevent family violence and abuses of which children are the victims. These tools make easily accessible, basic and very useful information available to decision makers and practitioners. The number of such tools should be increased and, above all, they should be widely distributed.

153. The availability of training courses is essential for those occupying decision-making posts in each of the sectors in question. It is also vital for practitioners and for the leaders and voluntary workers of many organizations and associations who do the day-to-day work in implementation of national and local policies.

154. The International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy at Vancouver has developed a programme of technical cooperation on domestic violence which will be offered to all organizations interested. The Centre wishes to cooperate in this way with national and local organizations in all regions of the world by providing training on the application of international standards in the area of human rights and domestic violence.

155. The United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme and its network of institutes are already offering certain courses on general criminal justice questions. These could include a section targeted more particularly on the prevention of violent crime.

156. Direct assistance should be provided to those preparing to adopt policies and to launch programmes for the prevention of violent crime. This assistance may take the form of exchanges in the field between persons with experience in the matter and those lacking such experience. It may also involve agreements for the implementation of pilot projects or model projects in various regions of the world. Finally, it may take the form of financial assistance for developing countries or countries in transition.

157. Given the percentage of the world population living in megalopolises and large towns, the high rates of violence there and the essential role played by these cities in the economic development of the countries in which they are situated, they should doubtless be given considerable priority. In cooperation with UNICRI, the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime is developing a project which would call for cooperation from key organizations of the United Nations system and the large cities. The goal is to give technical assistance to a few large cities in various regions of the world for a strategic analysis of their criminality and of prevention programmes. This project could be presented in a more precise way, discussed and commented on at the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held at Beijing in September 1995, and could also be one of the topics at the Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held at Istanbul in 1996.

158. In order to encourage the adoption of policies and programmes for the prevention of violent crime, the analysis of the various questions related to violence also needs to be amplified in the developing countries; a knowledge of this subject must no longer be limited to the situation in the industrialized countries. In this connection, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the United Nations Office at Vienna and UNDP could promote, regionally, subregionally and nationally, the organization of groups of experts capable of providing the necessary scientific and technical support.

Notes

[1]*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No.1* (E/1993/32), chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VIII.

[2]Statistics Canada, *The Violence against Women Survey* (1993).

[3]United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report, 1994* (New York, New York, Oxford University Press, 1994).

[4]Inge Kaul and R. Savio, "Global human security: a new political framework for North-South relations" (Society for International Development, Rome and New York, 1993) (mimeographed).

[5]W. G. Skogan, "Communities, crime and neighbourhood organization", in *Crime and Delinquency*, No. 35 (1989), pp. 137-157.

[6]F. E. Zimring,"Is gun control likely to reduce violent killings?", in *University of Chicago Law Review*, No. 35 (1968), pp. 721-737.

[7]See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 10* (E/1992/30), chap. IV.

[8]"Police stations for women: a new experience", in E. Kosovski, Z. P. Separović and W. Jamieson, eds., *Domestic Violence* (Dubrovnik, University of Zagreb, 1985).

[9]D. Prothrow-Stith, *Violence Prevention: Curriculum for Adolescents* (Newton, Massachusetts, Education Development Center Inc., 1987).

[10]*Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993* (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III, Vienna Declaration, sect. II, subsect. B.

[11]National Committee on Violence, *Violence: Directions for Australia* (Canberra, Australian Institute of Criminology, 1990).

Annex

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES FOR THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE

Target of strategy	*Main strategy*		*Elements of strategy*
General population (primary)	Institutional development	(1)	Proximity and efficiency of services, including the justice system and the police
		(2)	Access to public education
		(3)	Measures to combat unemployment
		(4)	Family support policy
		(5)	Generalized system of day-care centres
	Reduction of opportunities	(1)	Firearm control
		(2)	Open planning of cities
		(3)	Standards for residential construction
		(4)	Controlled density for certain types of shops
	Changing social values and encouraging a citizenship culture	(1)	Promotion of techniques for non-violent conflict resolution
		(2)	Promotion of and support for community involvement and voluntary work
		(3)	Control of violence on television
		(4)	Combating myths concerning differences and encouraging tolerance
		(5)	Promotion of citizens' rights and responsibilities
Population at risk (secondary)	Institutional development	(1)	Assistance for young mothers and single-parent families
		(2)	Measures to reduce school drop-out rates
		(3)	Training of practitioners in early detection
		(4)	Accessibility of social services
	Reduction of opportunities	(1)	Surveillance cameras in shops
		(2)	Replanning of certain parks
		(3)	Combating the illicit narcotics traffic
		(4)	Security walks organized by the women of certain districts
	Changing social values and encouraging a citizenship culture	(1)	Community groups for development of parental skills
		(2)	Anti-violence programmes in schools
		(3)	Policies on violence in sports practised by young people
Violent population and victims (tertiary)	Institutional development	(1)	Rehabilitation of prisoners
		(2)	Measures to protect ill-treated children
		(3)	Alternatives to imprisonment
	Reduction of opportunities	(1)	Shelters for women who are victims of family violence
		(2)	Conditions governing the release of certain violent prisoners
	Changing social values and encouraging a citizenship culture	(1)	Mediation
		(2)	Programmes for the rehabilitation of violent spouses
		(3)	Care for victims of conjugal or sexual violence